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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ALEXAN 00193 010758Z

11
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
---------- 044971
Z 010730Z SEP 75 ZFF-6
FM USDEL ALEXANDRIA
TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM FLASH
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0150

S E C R E T ALEXANDRIA 00193

NODIS

E.O. 11652 XGDS

TAGS: PFOR EG IS

SUBJECT MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS

REF SECTO 10256

1. ASSUME REFTEL CROSSED ALEXANDRIA'S 0190. IMMEDIATELY AFTER RECEIPT REFTEL, I AGAIN TELEPHONED FAHMY TO PASS ON INFORMATION THEREIN.

2. FAHMY WAS IN A FOUL MOOD. HE SAW NO REASON WHY INITIALING SHOULD NOT TAKE PLACE IN JERUSALEM BEFORE 1900 HOURS. HE CLAIMED THAT ISRAELI RADIO IS ALREADY BROADCASTING THAT CABINET HAS APPROVED AGREEMENT. I TOLD HIM THAT THIS IS NOT THE CASE AND REMINDED HIM THAT YOU HAD INDICATED YESTERDAY THAT THE CABINET WOULD PROBABLY BE IN SESSION UNTIL AT LEAST 1400 HOURS BEFORE ITS APPROVAL. THE SCHEDULE SUGGESTED IN REFTEL IS FULLY CONSISTENT WITH WHAT YOU HAD TOLD THE PRESIDENT AND HIM YESTERDAY.

3. FAHMY WOULD NOT BE ASSUAGED. HE WANTED TO KNOW WHY EVERYTHING IS BEING DONE LEISURELY WITH RESPECT TO ISRAELI INITIALING AND THEN EGYPT IS BEING PRESSED TO INITIAL AT 2300 HOURS. HE REMINDED HIM THAT YOU HAD OFFERED THE OPTIONS OF INITIALING

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HERE THIS EVENING OR TOMORROW MORNING AND THAT THE PRESIDENT

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HAD EXPLICITLY STATED HE WANTS TO INITIAL HERE TONIGHT
REGARDLESS OF THE HOUR.

4. FAHMY THEN COMPLAINED THAT A 2300 HOUR INITIALING IN
ALEXANDRIA MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE EGYPTIAN NEWS MEDIA
TO GET THE STORY AND PICTURES INTO TOMORROW MORNINGS PAPERS
AND TV. I ASKED IF IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO DELAY PUTTING
THE PAPERS TOBED BY AN HOUR OR TWO TO GET THE STORY IN. HE
ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS COULD BE DONE, BUT ANGRILY ASKED WHY
EGYPT SHOULD ALWAYS BE REQUIRED TO INCONVENIENCE ITSELF IN
SUCH MATTERS. HE SPECIFICALLY ASKED THAT, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE,
YOU PLAN TO ARRIVE NO LATER 2100 TO PERMIT A SOMEWHAT EARLIER
INITIALING HERE THAN IS PROPOSED IN REFTEL.

5. AS INDICATED PARA 7 ALEXANDRIA 0190, FAHMY UNDERSTANDS
THAT THE AGREEMENT, ANNEX AND US PROPOSAL WILL BE PUBLIC.

6 COMMENT: AS WILL BE NOTED FROM REPORTS OF MY TELECONS
WITH FAHMY THIS MORNING, HE REMAINS VERY UNHAPPY
ABOUT THE AGREEMENT AND IS FRANKLY BEING A BIT PETTYISH. I
LOOK FORWARD TO A GREAT SESSION WITH HIM AT 1000 TODAY.
HOWEVER, I AM SURE THAT IN THEFINAL ANALYSIS, INITIALING HERE
CAN BE ARRANGED AT WHATEVER HOUR YOU CA GET HERE. OBVIOUSLY,
THE EARLIER THE HAPPIER THE EGYPTIANS WILL BE.
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Message Attributes

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